



Christmas Blessings from the Chaplain

It seems incredible that I have had the privilege of being able to call myself Town Chaplain for a whole year; and what a fabulous year it has been. I have been both humbled and encouraged to meet so many GTCC volunteers devoting their time, prayers and talents to showing compassion, without judgement, to the vulnerable in our community. Our Street Angels, Community Angels and Volunteer Chaplains continue to flourish in our town, and I was particularly proud to welcome 32 new Angels at our annual Commissioning service in November.

Reflecting on 2019, here are my highlights so far;

Firstly, the growth of our Community Angel programme which has been inundated with referrals, demonstrating the real need of those who are socially isolated or lonely in our neighbourhood. We have now recruited Anne Thornton to support our small project team, to ensure it is in a good place from which to grow further in the future.

Secondly, our Street Angels and Volunteer Chaplains continue to come alongside people at their time of need. The stories, the positive feedback from those who are supported, and the many accolades received are a tribute to these professional teams of volunteers.

Thirdly, 18 months ago we had concerns regarding our funding and so we started the process of seeking external supporters and boosting our programme of fundraising events. I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all those who have got involved in this, your involvement has raised funds, increased our profile and enabled us to get to know each other better. We are thrilled to have secured funds from a wide range of generous supporters this year which will provide a firm foundation as we enter a new financial year. The majority of our funding still comes from faithful individuals and church supporters from across the region, for which we remain hugely grateful.

Looking ahead into the new year I would like to invite all staff, Trustees and volunteers to an informal Chaplaincy forum on the morning of Saturday 8 February 2020, when we will have the opportunity to spend time together, be refreshed and look forward to what God has in store for us - please save the date, more details to follow.

With every blessing to you, our supporters, and your families, may you experience peace and joy this Christmas, Noelle



COMMUNITY

CARE

COMPASSION

for people in our town

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Meet Our Patron

Elizabeth Toulson CBE DL, likes to be known as Lizzie. She has lived in Surrey for over 40 years. A lawyer by training, her service in the voluntary sector includes the National Chairmanship of both the Women's Royal Voluntary Service and the Children's Society; governorship of Charterhouse School and the Queen Elizabeth Foundation; chairmanship of Guildford Cathedral Council, and a year as High Sheriff of Surrey (2009/10). She has also served as a governor at Pond Meadow Academy, Guildford, a special needs school and volunteered for a local Citizens Advice Bureau 18 years. She has chaired Surrey Appropriate Adults for the Guildford Diocese and is a Deputy Lieutenant of the County. Lizzie has 4 children and 8 grand-children and includes gardening, walking, current affairs and prolific reading in her list of hobbies.

Louise Kenyon, Trustee, recently met with Lizzie at her Guildford home to find out more about her interest in the Chaplaincy.



Lizzie, you have had a long association with the Chaplaincy, can you tell me how you first got involved?

One of the privileges of serving as High Sheriff of Surrey is meeting people and finding out about pioneering social projects. In 2009, when the Street Angel project was in its infancy, I spent an inspiring long cold night on the Guildford streets with a team of Angels, and that visit, working alongside incredible dedicated volunteers, left a lasting impression on me!

What interests you about the work of the Chaplaincy?

I love the fact that it is ecumenical, where individuals can work alongside others, sharing common ground, proudly demonstrating Christian principles in action. The Angels demonstrate outstanding non-judgemental service to the community, with an emphasis on the vulnerable young. These are all areas that I am passionate about.



Have you seen changes in the needs of the vulnerable in the local area?

Sadly, in recent years there has been a huge increase in mental health issues, reaching epidemic proportions amongst the young. Inevitably these issues have been exacerbated by alcohol or drug abuse and dysfunctional relationships. I have been made so aware that the vulnerable and socially excluded have become increasingly exposed. The need to befriend and connect with individuals in need has never been more pronounced. I am delighted to see that the Chaplaincy has responded to this change by establishing the Community Angel project to engage with people during the day, extending their caring service to another part of our community.

You recently spent another night with a team of Street Angels – can you tell me more about that experience?

I had an eye-opening time. I was so grateful for the opportunity to shadow experienced members of the team. I was particularly struck by their generous welcome to me, the expressions of appreciation by so many in the town, and the warmth of Angel relationships with key figures, such as the doormen. I wish I was better at staying up late as I would be tempted to apply to be a Street Angel!

What does being the Chaplaincy's first Patron mean to you?

I was deeply honoured to be invited to be the first Patron of such a flagship organisation and I look forward to learning more about the Chaplaincy's worthwhile work and meeting more volunteers. I am particularly looking forward to working closely with the staff and Board of Trustees to help the Chaplaincy flourish.

Do you have a message for the 140 Chaplaincy volunteers who work on our various projects?

I am full of admiration for those who regularly volunteer for each of the three projects. Whether you are a Street Angel, a Community Angel, a Volunteer Angel, or if you support the Chaplaincy's work in another capacity, you should feel extremely proud of what you do. The volunteers are the fuel in the tank of the Chaplaincy. You reach out without judgement, demonstrating exceptional compassion. Your work has become an intrinsic part of the fabric of the town, and it is fantastic that your caring work is rightly recognised by the whole community. I salute you and pray that God will continue to bless your work.

GTCC thanks the following Partners who have provided financial support in 2019

Community Foundation for Surrey
The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
The Bishop of Guildford's Foundation
The Loseley Christian Trust
Poyle Charities
The University of Surrey
Ecclesiastical Insurance

Angels help Guildford gain Purple Flag status



Guildford town centre has been recognised again by the Purple Flag assessors for its safe and diverse night time economy. It is one of only 70 towns in the UK to hold the award (according to the Experience Guildford website).

The Guildford Town Purple Flag Partnership Group (GTPFP) is led by Guildford Borough Council and Experience Guildford (the town's Business Improvement District), includes a broad range of town and county organisations including Surrey Police, the Safer Guildford Partnership, Street Angels and Guildford Pubwatch.

Purple Flag launched in 2012 and is run by The Association of Town Centre Management. It uses an accreditation process similar to Green Flag for parks and Blue Flag for beaches and provides residents and visitors with reassurance that they are choosing a safe night out in a vibrant town offering a wide range of activities. Street Angels are now well established as offering help and support to anyone needing assistance on a Friday or Saturday night in Guildford, so several 'Angels' were invited to celebrate the award by attending the presentation of the Flag to the town outside the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in September. Congratulations to everyone involved!



Mayor finds his Angel wings

Mayor Richard Billington kindly came down to Guildford Railway Station to see off the intrepid group of Angel walkers heading for Dorking to raise money for GTCC at the end of September. We were expertly led by members of the Guildford Walkfest team who generously dedicated this particular walk to our charity. We were blessed by having good weather and incredible views as we strolled through the Surrey Hills. Amongst the walkers were former Chaplain Rod with his wife Trudie as well as current chaplain Noelle and husband Andrew. Several Trustees also completed the 14 mile walk along with three Street Angels.



Having left Guildford around 9.30am we arrived at Denbie's Winery by 4pm much to the relief of our feet and thankfully with no reported injuries or blisters. But it was all worth it because

thanks to the generosity of our friends and supporters we managed to raise around £3,400 which will go towards our £20k target for 2019. Huge thanks to all who participated and sponsored our walkers!





INTERVIEW WITH ANNIE COX, Volunteer Chaplain

There are approximately 8 Volunteer Chaplains who provide a daytime 'listening ear' and offer spiritual, pastoral and emotional support in the workplace and public spaces in Guildford, such as the shopping centres (eg the Friary), the police station, Fire Station, Drop-in Centre (near Waitrose) and RSCH. The aim is to connect with and support those who are struggling with day-to-day problems and challenges and encourage them in their efforts to find a meaningful and positive way forward.

For many, the 'work place' is challenging and presents increasing demands. For many, it's not rewarding, it's about meeting targets and it's not always a place where people feel valued or appreciated. This seems particularly so in the retail world; our uncertain times bring anxiety, financial worries and stress. My 'patch' as a Volunteer Chaplain is a section of the Friary; each Monday morning I visit some of those who work in the shops. Each Monday morning is different and brings different opportunities; a chance to listen, to get to know someone, to understand a little about their life, to encourage, to laugh together, to build a relationship, bring a cake to celebrate a birthday or a particular event. Sometimes conversations are superficial and banal, other times meaningful and profound; I never know what Monday morning will bring!

Overall, it's a wonderfully rewarding and worthwhile challenge and even when conversations seem mundane, just 'being there' and 'listening' can reassure and affirm a person's sense of value and worth. It's simply about sharing the love that God has for each and every unique person, regardless of their background, faith, belief or circumstance, and seeing and affirming the Good that is in everyone.

Retail may not be for you but there are PLENTY of other places that would greatly benefit from someone just visiting weekly, to listen and 'be there'. We each volunteer for approx. 2-4 hours per week and are supported by Chaplain Noelle. We meet together regularly for a meal, support and fellowship. Do think about it....., contact Noelle to find out more!

Torchlight Procession & Firework Fiesta

The first weekend of November was exceptionally busy for our Street Angels, not only were we out on Friday and Saturday nights, we also provided cover for the Lion's Torchlight procession to Stoke Park along with the Towns main firework display. The following evening we held our commissioning service for new Angels at Christ Church (see page 7 for full story).

Thanks to all those who did extra shifts to help us cover these events.

Photo right, Fiona with PJ at Stoke Park at the end of the torchlight procession.





Very High Tea

During the summer were blessed with a warm sunny day at one of Guildford's highest points, St Martha's on the Hill Church. GTCC volunteers were able to fund raise by selling cakes and other refreshments to ramblers and other passers by. Thanks to our volunteers and cake makers as well as St Martha's for allowing us to use their facilities. Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner David Munro, also joined the party. Photos below



Right Down Our Street Quiz

Nearly 100 Angel supporters enjoyed a lovely curry meal, a brain stretching quiz, a raffle and auction in support of the work of Angels in our town, on Friday 15 November at St Saviour's Church, Guildford. A big thank you to all those who volunteered and those who came to support us. Plus our company supporters

www.winegiftcentre.com and caterers 'simply delicious food' A special thanks goes out to Michael Tame (top left pic) for devising such a clever Street themed quiz in a nod to the work Angels do week in, week out..

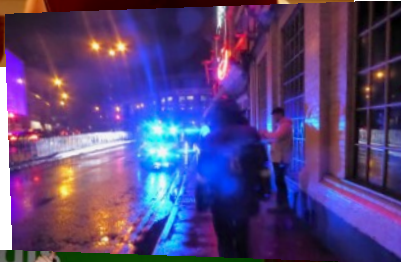
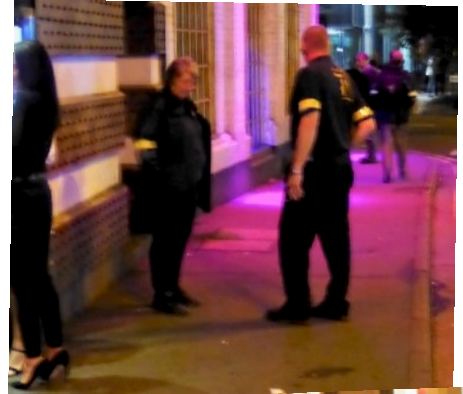
We raised over £2000 during the course of the evening to support the work of the Street Angels.

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Snap shots of our work and events around Guildford in the last six months.





New Angels welcomed to the Town

Local leaders, volunteer “Angels”, civic guests and friends from across the county gathered to celebrate the caring work of Guildford Street Angels, Community Angels and Volunteer chaplains at Christ Church Guildford on 3 November and to welcome 32 new Angels to the team

Rev Noelle Coe led the annual Commissioning service at which new volunteers were commissioned at the well-attended and joyful service. Special guests included the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Michael More Molyneux and Mrs Sarah More Molyneux, the Mayor of Guildford, Cllr Richard Billington, Patron Lady Elizabeth Toulson, and David Munro, Surrey’s Police & Crime Commissioner, together with representatives from a range of organisations, supporters and friends.

Noelle said “My first year in post as Town Chaplain has been rewarding, varied and extremely busy, I have had the privilege of working alongside so many committed individuals who serve the people of our town. Our annual Service has again provided a fabulous opportunity to thank our amazing volunteers, acknowledging their selfless giving of time and compassion to the vulnerable in our town.

I am so proud to have had opportunities to contribute to making Guildford a safer and more caring place for those who work, rest or play here. I am looking forward to continuing our work in 2020, collaborating with other church, civic and community organisations. Working in partnership with others, our Angels remain committed to supporting the community of Guildford by tackling social isolation and vulnerable people within it, in a non-judgemental way”

Noelle continued “I am increasingly aware of the growing need to tackle loneliness in our town. We have seen huge demand for home visits from our “Community Angels” over the last year reflecting an increase of feelings of insecurity in people of all ages. Our volunteer angels seek to reassure and re-engage people with their community, to enable them to live a full life. We are continually recruiting new volunteers and invite people to find out more about how they can serve and support their neighbours.”

Rev Jo Trickey, Curate at Christ Church, spoke at the service on the parable of the Lost Sheep, focusing on the part that individuals can play in looking after those in need. The Mayor of Guildford, Richard Billington and PC Victoria Detomaso, from Surrey Police, expressed heartfelt appreciation of the work of the volunteers on behalf of the wider community.

The service also provided an opportunity to thank organisations who have become Chaplaincy Community Partners by granting much needed financial support to the work of the Angels. New collaborations have recently been announced with the University of Surrey, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioners, the Community Foundation for Surrey and Surrey County Council. With no statutory funding, the Chaplaincy is funded purely by voluntary donations, the majority is given by Guildford churches of all denominations.

Ways to give to GTCC

SMS Text

To send a donation by text via your mobile provider please send an SMS message starting with the word ANGEL followed by your donation amount of either 5, 10 or 20, e.g. ANGEL10 would donate £10
Text Giving to the number 70085

Gift Aided Regular giving

To find out more about how to give electronically and set up a regular gift download a Gift Aid donation form here: <https://gtcc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/GTCC-Donors-Gift-Aid-Declaration.pdf>

Further information is here:

amazonsmile.co.uk is a simple and automatic way for you to support a charity of your choice every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.co.uk, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as amazon.co.uk, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your selected charity.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.co.uk from the web browser on your computer or mobile device each time you shop on Amazon. Choose Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy as your charity and 0.5% of purchases will go to GTCC. Full details can be found on this link [About AmazonSmile](#)

GTCC and all our projects rely on generous giving from the local church community, organisations and individual donations. However, the real support comes from people getting involved either by giving their time volunteering on one of our projects, or dedicating time to pray for our town and the work we do. We need your support in order to continue this valuable work in our community.

It costs around £80,000 per year to run all of our three community projects. Outside of our generous church donors, much of our income comes from individual supporters who have set up monthly standing orders with Gift Aid declarations, so we can claim back the tax on their kind giving.

If you can help us out in this way, have links with local businesses which might like to nominate us as their chosen charity or want to see how you can support us in other ways please visit our giving page here: <https://gtcc.org.uk/donate/>

Easy Fundraising - How does it work?

easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into free donations for your favourite cause. How? Just start your online shopping first at easyfundraising, then shop as normal. Our retailers will then make a small donation to say "thank you". So if you online shop at Sainsbury's, Argos or many other retailers, you can help us raise funds. Our page link is here: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/guildfordtccchaplaincy/?q=Guildford%20Town&cat=cause-autosuggest>

GTCC EVENT DIARY 2019

Saturday 7 December: Town centre Street collection in aid of GTCC

Wednesday 11 December Festival of Christmas Trees, Guildford United Reformed Church (URC) Portsmouth Road GU2 4BS 10am - 12noon (Street Angels supported charity) also there on **Saturday 14 December** 2pm - 4pm **Monday 16 December** 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Saturday 8 February 2020 informal Chaplaincy Forum morning (details to follow)

Tuesday 11 February Faith Forum on Homelessness 7.30pm - 9.30pm, Council Chambers, Guildford Borough Council, Millmead

Saturday 6 June 2020 Guildford Chamber Choir Concert in aid of GTCC,

For further updates please check our web site or on Facebook or Twitter accounts detailed below:

www.gtcc.org.uk



Guildford Street Angels
Guildford Community Angels

@AngelsGFD



@ComAngelsGFD